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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claim 1, 9 and 14 have been amended and new claims 18-20 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1, 2 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Zhang* (5,955,854). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 14 to recite that the map signature constructed by the controller is of a graphical shape. The graphical shape is representative of known obstructions normally within the defined field. Variation of the graphical shape indicating that an unknown object is within the defined field. *Zhang* does not disclose constructing a map signature having a graphical shape from the received signal. *Zhang* only detects an increase in the reflected signal. *See Col. 10, lines 31-34.* Accordingly, Amended claims 1, 9 and 14 are properly allowable. New claims 18-20 recite further features of the instant invention which are also properly allowable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

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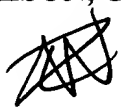
Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



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Dated: April 3, 2001

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I hereby certify that this Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. on April 3, 2001.

Raimi Blackerby

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

CLAIMS

1. (AMENDED) An object detection system for a vehicle comprising:

an emitter mounted to transmit a signal within a defined field, said defined field adjacent a closure path of a moveable closure member;

a receiver to receive said signal as transmitted within said defined field; and

a controller in communication with said receiver, said controller operable to construct a map signature of said signal received by said receiver, said map signature having a first graphical shape representative of known obstructions normally within said defined field, said first graphical shape representative of said defined field when said defined field is clear of unknown objects, said controller operable to construct a second graphical shape in response to an unknown object entering within said defined field, variation from said first graphical shape indicative of said unknown object.

10. (AMENDED)A moveable closure assembly comprising:

a moveable closure member moveable through a closure path;

an emitter mounted to transmit a signal within a defined field, said defined field adjacent said closure path;

a receiver to receive said signal as transmitted within said defined field; and

a controller in communication with said receiver, said controller operable to construct a map signature of said signal received by said receiver, said map signature having a first graphical shape representative of known obstructions normally within said defined field such that insertion of an unknown object within said defined field produces a variation [in] from said [map] first graphical shape.

14. (AMENDED)A method of detecting an object in a moveable closure path comprising the steps of:

(1) transmitting a signal within a defined field, said defined field adjacent a closure path of a moveable closure member;

(4) receiving said signal as transmitted within said defined field;

(5) mapping said signal received in said step (2) as a first graphical shape representative of known obstructions normally within said defined field; and

(4) identifying a variation in said [mapped signal] graphical shape of said step (3).